



## EDITORIAL



THIS ISSUE OF *Asian Perspectives*, "Regional Perspectives on States in Asia" has been assembled and edited by Kathleen D. Morrison. With the exception of Morrison's opening article "States of Theory and States of Asia: An Introduction to Regional Perspectives...", the papers in this issue were first presented in an invited session at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, held in Washington, D.C., November 17-21, 1993. The symposium, "Landscapes of Power: Regional Perspectives on States in Asia," was organized and chaired by Morrison. I would like to acknowledge the Archaeology Program Chair for the meeting, Christine Hastorf, for supporting this symposium. Several other papers not appearing here (but worth mentioning) were presented in the invited session, one by F. Ikawa-Smith, "Azuma and Beyond: The Northeastern Frontier of the Yamato State in Early Historic Japan," one by S. M. Nelson, "Pre-Shang Complexity in Northern China," one by C. L. Borstel, "Powerful Landscapes: The Modern State and the Archaeology of Complexity in China," and a final one by K. M. Mudar "Complex Polities in Central Thailand: The Dvaravati Kingdom."

The articles in this special issue are a welcome testament to the contemporary state of archaeological research on social complexity in Asia today. Increasingly, archaeologists who work in Asia are developing new and more sophisticated models for the interpretation of the complex social forms that existed in the area during prehistoric and historic times. Their analyses of the archaeological record reflect the growing body of techniques that now are regularly applied to portable material culture, architectural features and inscriptions, and settlement patterns. With these has come new appreciation for the rich potential archaeological investigations may provide into prehistoric and historic state level societies, particularly because the development and operation of these states in south and east Asia diverged somewhat from patterns known from Europe and Southwest Asia.

I congratulate Dr. Morrison and her collaborators on the excellent issue of *Asian Perspectives* they have prepared, and the timely manner in which they have achieved its publication.

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